





## JORDAN TIMES

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## We are all Sami Esmails

The decision by the Israeli court in Tel Aviv to accept into evidence the "confession" of Sami Esmail raises some disturbing questions about justice in Israel, and those people who should be most disturbed are those who say that they are the friends of Israel.

Now that the confession of Sami Esmail has been accepted as evidence, the trial proper gets underway, and the larger questions of the legitimacy of the charges against Mr. Esmail will now have to be debated in public. Again, the implications are very serious indeed. It does not take a very deep understanding of the law to come up with some major doubts about the legality of the entire Esmail case. Here is a natural-born American citizen detained by Israel largely because of a tipoff from the American FBI, charged with the crime of belonging to an organisation that is illegal in Israel. Mr. Esmail is not charged with carrying out a specific criminal or destructive act against Israel, or even of planning any such act. The charges against him are that he is a member of an illegal group (the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine) and that he maintained contact with "enemy agents", who, for all we know, could be anybody that Israel designates as an enemy agent. If such a case took place anywhere else besides Israel, we suspect that quite a fuss would be made about the illegality and immorality of the whole thing. What, would happen, we wonder, if Syria arrested a British citizen upon a tipoff from Scotland Yard, and charged that person with being a member of the World Zionist Organisation, and thus of being an enemy of Syria and thus of having contacts with known enemy agents of Syria? What would happen, of course, is that the entire world would raise its indignant voice and beat its offended moralistic chest. But why does the world stand so meek and unquestioning when Israel takes the principles of individual liberty and international law and calmly throws them out the window?

Sami Esmail is simply a political prisoner charged with having beliefs that Israel does not like. As such, he reflects the beliefs of every Palestinian man, woman and child, and, in his Israeli jail, he stands as the symbol of Israeli madness. He is not on trial because he has done anything to harm Israel; he is on trial because he is a Palestinian, and that, in Zionist eyes, is a crime.

All those people who wake up in the morning thinking of human rights had better wake up to the fact that the human rights of the entire world will mean nothing if the human rights of Sami Esmail are not safeguarded in the face of Zionism's insatiable destructiveness.

## ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Jordanian newspapers Monday gave prominence to King Hussein's messages which are being delivered to Arab leaders by four emissaries.

AL RA'Y says that the Arab World, divided on itself as it is now, can only face the serious challenge posed by the Israeli aggression through concerted effort and true intentions to restore Arab solidarity on a sound and firm basis which can withstand "surprises" and Israeli raids, no matter how big. Hence the Jordanian emissaries mission to Arab capitals is of great and momentous importance.

The newspaper points out that Jordan's increasing concern with building up a unified Arab stand before it is too late stems from its deep understanding of Israel's aggressive intentions and its desire to impose a fait accompli on all the Arabs.

AL DUSTOUR says that Jordan's present actions should be seen as a serious effort at persuasion aimed at convening an Arab summit. A summit, it adds, is not an end but a means to debate future issues and draw up a unified stand capable of confronting Israel's plan for expansion. A summit does not entail changing the political ideologies or social or economic creeds of the various Arab regimes. Nor does it mean passing judgement on any previous political practices such as President Sadat's initiative or the opposition to it, the newspaper explains.

In another commentary in AL RA'Y, Jum'a Hamad is of the opinion that Arabs should talk and consult with each other, lest the Arab World fall into a state of dismemberment with the result that Egypt, for instance, is isolated from the fold.

The writer stresses that security is the top priority. It is essential that the security of all the Arabs from the Atlantic to the Gulf be defended against Israeli threats which are hanging "over the northern Arab peninsula and pose a perilous worry for Libya, Iraq via the Gulf and to the Red Sea area as a whole."

### WANTED

Small villa two or three bedrooms, central heating, garden, quiet area. Phone 56523.

# Located in the heart of the old souk in Aleppo, the Poche residence is 440 years old

Text by Pat McDonnell  
 Photos by Abdullah Hadjar  
 Special to the Jordan Times

Aleppo — Arabs may smile in amusement when Americans apply the adjective "old" to Victorian dwellings, but even by Syrian standards the Aleppo home of Dr. Adolf Poche is ancient.

Located on the second floor of the Khan Nahaseen (Copper Caravanserai) in the heart of the Old City's souk, the Poche residence is the oldest continually inhabited house in Aleppo.

When Dr. Poche's great-grandfather took up residence in the house in the late 18th century, it already was more than 250 years old.

From the beginning of the 13th century, Aleppo had been the crossroads of trade routes. By the 16th century, more than 40 nations and trading companies had established headquarters there to represent their interests. In addition to the British East India Co., the Netherlands, Portugal, France, Spain and Venice had consulates in Aleppo. The consuls were more than diplomats, they also negotiated commercial transactions for produce transported by camel caravan to the city.

As such, it was necessary for the consuls to live in well protected dwellings. Hence, the caravanserai or khan — a large open area enclosed by walls with one narrow door permitting up to 200 camels to enter one-by-one. Here, traders could expose their wares for a few days while living upstairs in the consular residence.

In 1539 the Venetians constructed a khan to accommodate their trading expeditions and to house their consul. The date is documented by numerous inscriptions on the wall of an upstairs room.

Dr. Poche's grandfather was an Austrian who came to Syria during the Napoleonic Wars, but he looks all the world like an Ottoman nobleman in a portrait painted in 1939. Dr. Poche explains that until 1820 the Turks regarded Aleppo as a sacred city because of its strategic position on the road to Mecca. This is indicated by the name, Sham Sherif, which Turks conferred on Aleppo.

Even though he was the director of an Austrian trading company, Dr. Poche's grandfather was obliged to dress as a Moslem in order to enter the holy city.

Ten years after he arrived in Aleppo, Poche married — his bride was the daughter of the last Venetian consul to serve in Aleppo. Three decades earlier, the mother of that long-ago bride had been immortalised for future generations in a portrait painted in the same salon where it hangs today. A mandolin in the foreground of the 1790 painting is displayed today on a nearby table.

Dr. Poche's father maintained a lifelong residence in the Khan Nahaseen from which he operated family trading and agricultural interests. He was recognised in scholarly circles for his articles and books on early Christian — 3rd to 7th century — cities of the San Simoun Mountain area. It was in this context that he entertained the Marquis Jean Melchior de Vogue in 1862.

The youngest child in a family of five girls and two boys, Dr. Poche was born in Khan Nahaseen in June 1895. A tall, courtly man who speaks five languages fluently, Dr. Poche is emotionally and legally (since 1953) a Syrian.

He was a medical student in Vienna when World War I began. He served as an officer in the Austro-Hungarian Army and subsequently fled for citizenship in Czechoslovakia. Upon receiving his medical degree from St. George French University in Beirut, he practiced pediatrics in Aleppo until his retirement in 1965. In 1925 he was the first physician in Aleppo to utilise the new-fangled X-ray machine.

In addition to his active medical practice and diplomatic posts in Aleppo as Austrian consul in 1938 and Belgian co-



Icon of Saint Susanna painted and signed in 1772 by Georges, son of Hanania of the Melekite School of Aleppo. (Photos by Abdullah Hadjar).

nsul in 1939, Dr. Poche pursued his interests in the history of Aleppo and the archaeology of all Syria.

This interest is reflected in every square inch of Khan Nahaseen which he has kept as much intact as time, earthquakes and weather permit.

Built in the traditional 16th-century Venetian style of small rooms opening off a central hallway, the 16-room residence remains unaltered in all but two of its rooms. The kitchen was remodeled in 1900 and "modern" plumbing was installed in the master bathroom in 1920. The house was wired for electricity in 1928.

During the 1930s Franz Cumont, the Belgian excavator of Dura Europos, and archaeologist Max Oppenheim often took respite from their historical digs in Khan Nahaseen.



Hallway of the 16-room Poche residence built in 1539 to house the Venetian consul to Aleppo.

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## Draft law for civil service envisages more decentralisation

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Minister of Education and Ministry of State for Prime Minister Affairs Abdul Salam Al Majali today presided over a seminar held by the Higher Ministerial Committee to review a draft law for the civil service and another for the civil service board.

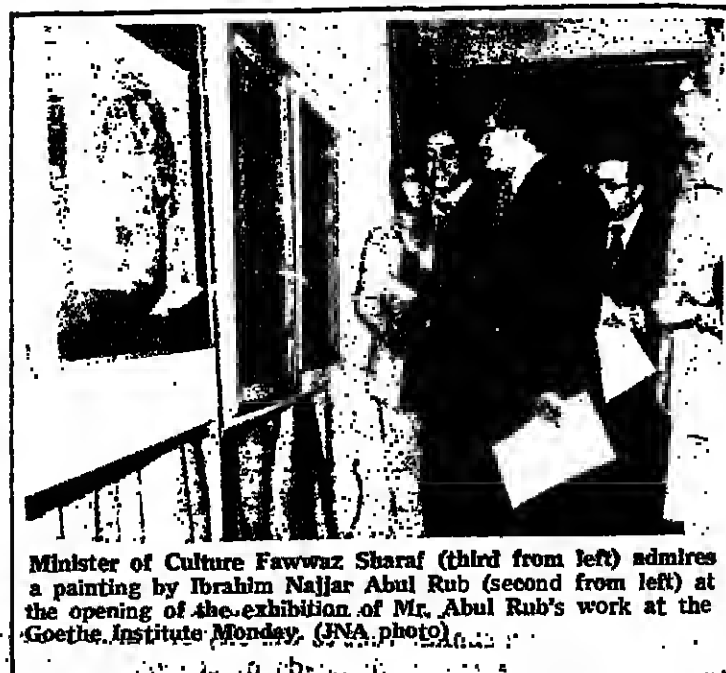
Dr. Majali said during this seminar, at the University of Jordan, the first of its kind to be held in Jordan, that appointment to the civil service board will be according to qualification, and incentives, such as promotion and allowances, will depend on the employees passing a special training course.

The new law will regulate yearly increments and promotion for all categories of government employees, he added.

The new system will give the Civil Service Commission effective supervision over all ministries and departments. It will also give ministers a greater deal of authority within their ministries previously held by the cabinet, while authority will also be passed down from ministers to their under-secretaries, the aim being to create greater decentralisation in government activities, Dr. Majali explained.

## Prince Hassan invites UAE crown prince to Jordan

ABU DHABI, April 10 (JNA). — Lt. General Sheikh Khalifeh Ibn Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Force of the United Arab Emirates, today received a message from His Highness Crown Prince Hassan. The message was delivered by Jordan ambassador in Abu Dhabi who said it contains a renewed invitation to Sheikh Khalifeh to visit Jordan. The sheikh has accepted and the time of the visit will be fixed later, the ambassador said.



Minister of Culture Fawwaz Sharaf (third from left) admires a painting by Ibrahim Najjar Abul Rub (second from left) at the opening of the exhibition of Mr. Abul Rub's work at the Goethe Institute Monday. (JNA photo)

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### Art Exhibition

Paintings by Ibrahim Najjar Abul Rub are on display daily at the Goethe Institute till next Saturday.

### Film

The British Council is showing "Lord of the Flies," a film directed by Peter Brook, tonight at 6:00 and tomorrow at 6:30. Reserve free tickets before the performance.

### WANTED

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# Damas-Scene

Compiled for the Jordan Times by Pat McDonnell

(Week of April 11 - April 17)

## EXHIBITIONS

From the Spirit of My Country," an exhibition of photographs by Syrian photographer-graphic artist Mustafa Eibesh at the Meridian Hotel, April 21, Meridian Hotel, Damascus. National Folk Art of Bulgaria," carpets, silver, ceramics, national costumes from widely diverse regions of Bulgaria. Daily except Tuesdays through April 18. Exhibition at the National Museum of Damascus. Hours: 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 3 p.m.-5 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. April 18. Hours: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. April 19. Hours: 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday through Thursday. April 20. "Educational for Children," German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre, April 12 through April 20. "Educational for Children," German Democratic Republic Cultural Centre, April 12 through April 20.

THURSDAY, April 13: Photos depicting the influence of culture on Spain. Spanish Cultural Centre. Hours: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 19. THURSDAY, April 15: Opening of the new Urna Art Gallery at the Meridian Hotel. After 17 years on Rue Mahdi Ben artist and gallery proprietor Mahmoud Da'adoush is re-his gallery at the Meridian Hotel. The inaugural exhibition "The Masters and Their Students," will feature two lions of Syrian and Italian artists: Moudarres, Chura, Fontana, Montenerini, and Monachesi. Daily through April 19. Hours: 4-7 p.m. Friday through April 19.

## THEATRE

THURSDAY, April 13, and FRIDAY, April 14: The Richard M. Theatre. 8 p.m. Al Kabani Theatre.

## CONCERTS

THURSDAY, April 13: Russian violinist Alexander Klavov performs at 6 p.m. in the Music Salon, Soviet Cultural Centre.

## LECTURES

THURSDAY, April 12: "International Day of Aerospace," Soviet Cultural Centre. THURSDAY, April 12: "Stories and Drawings for Children," Soviet Cultural Centre.



Raza Allen and Richard Morse have it up in "Dust." The leading American mime duo will appear at 8 p.m. Thursday and Friday at Al Kabani Theatre, Damascus, during the second Middle East tour the group has made under sponsorship of the U.S. State Department.

THURSDAY, April 13: "Courbet," a film and discussion about the French painter by Prof. Elias Zayat, Beaux Arts Faculty. 7:03 p.m. French Cultural Centre. MONDAY, April 17: "Impressionism and Literature," by Prof. Louis Forestier of the Sorbonne. 7:30 p.m. French Cultural Centre.

## FILMS

FRIDAY, April 14: "In Between Strangers and Their Family," 7:03 p.m. French Cultural Centre. FRIDAY, April 14, 7 p.m. and SATURDAY, April 15, 8 p.m.: "Mouchette," a film by R. Bresson. French Cultural Centre. MONDAY, April 17: "Le Journal d'un Fou," a story of Gogol by R. Goggio. 8 p.m. French Cultural Centre.

## Coming & Going...

Bank officials will go to Geneva

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Housing Bank Deputy Director Mr. Bassam Attari and Chief of Research and Studies at the Central Bank of Jordan Dr. Adnan Al Hindi, will represent Jordan at the businessmen's conference for economic cooperation affairs beginning in Geneva on Wednesday.

Mohammad Dabbas to head delegation to Riyadh

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Minister of Finance Dr. Mohammad Dabbas will head the Jordanian delegation at the fourth annual meeting of the council of governors of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa due to begin in Riyadh on April 19.

Supply minister back from European trip

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Minister of Supply Marwan Al Qasim returned here Sunday from a tour which took him to Greece, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary and Yugoslavia to discuss possible contracting on

the purchase of commodities for the Civil Consumer Corporation. Mr. Al Qasim said contracts were drawn up with these countries for the purchase of basic supplies which are expected to arrive in Jordan within the next two months. A Yugoslav delegation is expected to arrive in Jordan next month to draw up a contract with the corporation for providing it with commodities for one year.

Hassan Ibrahim will represent Jordan at Islamic meet

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hassan Ibrahim will lead the Jordanian delegation to the ninth Islamic Countries Foreign Ministers conference due to begin in Dakar, Senegal on April 24. The delegation, formed by a cabinet decision Sunday, includes Jordan's Non-Resident Ambassador to the Senegal Hani Tabbarah, Minister Plenipotentiary at the Foreign Ministry Walid Al Masri, Director of the Political Department Walid Al Sa'd and representatives from the Waqf's Ministry and Royal Commission for Jerusalem Affairs.

Minister of public works in Cairo for road meet

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — A Jordanian delegation led by the Minister of Public Works, Sa'id Bino, left for Cairo Sunday to attend the meetings of the World Union for Roads, Mr. Bino said in a statement before departure that during the week-long meetings, the participants will discuss research connected with the planning of roads, bridges and tunnels.

## Economic and Business News

Daily average of trading on stock exchange reaches JD 25,000

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The average volume of trading at the Amman Stock Exchange has risen from JD 4,000 when the market first opened to JD 25,000 per day, Chairman of the stock exchange Dr. Hashem Sabagh today told His Highness Crown Prince Hassan who was visiting the market. Prince Hassan was met by Governor of the Central Bank Mohammad Sa'id Nabulsi who briefed him on the operations of the stock exchange.

Cabinet approves 4.2m dinar loan from AFESD for Aqaba

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The cabinet Sunday approved a 4.2 million Kuwaiti dinars loan agreement with the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development to help finance the Aqaba Water project, which is estimated to cost 15 million Kuwaiti dinars.

Jordan asks Iraq for transit rights for Gaza citrus exports

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Jordan has asked Iraq to allow lorries carrying citrus fruits from the occupied Gaza Strip to cross Iraqi territory on their way to Iran. Jordan's approach was made by Interior Minister Suheilman Arar who stopped over in Baghdad yesterday carrying a message from His Majesty King Hussein to President Bakr. The request was made on the instructions of Prime Minister Mudar Badran. Citrus fruit exports constitute the main source of income for the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip.

Trade with Arab countries increases

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Jordan's exports to Arab states during December 1977 increased by 62 per cent over the same month in 1976, while imports increased by 249 per cent over the same period, sources at the Department of Statistics said Sunday. Exports in December 1977 amounted to JD 3,400,000 as against JD 2,104,000 in December 1976. Imports during December 1977 were worth JD 7,221,000 as against JD 2,680,000 in December 1976. The main importers of Jordanian goods were Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Egypt, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, South Yemen, Qatar, Libya and North Yemen. Jordan imported goods mainly from Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Egypt.

# National News Roundup

Princess Basma briefs schools on registration of handicapped

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday explained to headmasters and headmistresses of UNRWA schools in the district of Zarqa plans for the registration of handicapped people in the country due to start on April 15. The registration is the first step towards establishing better living conditions and services for the handicapped. The princess also visited the Family Affairs Society, a home for the aged and a centre for the mentally retarded. Princess Basma had made a similar visit to the city of Tafila last Sunday where she met with heads of schools to discuss the aims of the campaign. She also toured the hospital and a number of villages in the Tafila district.

Pakistani military team continues tour

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The visiting Pakistani military delegation led by Lt. Gen. Sadeq Rasheed Abbasi paid a visit to the Royal Jordanian Air Force headquarters. They met with the air force commander and briefed on the duties and organisation of the Air Force. On Sunday, the delegation was received by His Majesty the King. During the audience the King conferred the guests Jordanian military medals of high distinction. The audience was also attended by the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan. The Pakistani guests were received by His Highness Crown Prince Hassan, whom bilateral relations and cooperation were discussed. Earlier on Sunday, the delegation visited the Staff College where it was briefed on the organisation and activities of the college and its training system. Token gifts were exchanged at the end of the visit.

Cabinet boosts minimum wage for government employees

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The minimum wage for government employees has been raised to JD 25 and salaries are to receive minimum salaries of JD 32, according to a new wage scale approved by the Cabinet. Sunday the scale is part of a bill attached to the 1978 budget approved by the cabinet which creates 5,482 posts at various government departments. Also at the meeting Prime Minister Mudar Badran briefed the cabinet on the outcome of his recent visit to Libya which he held talks on bilateral relations and the Arab situation with Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi and other senior government officials.

Illegally parked cars will be towed away

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The Directorate of Public Works from tomorrow will begin an inspection drive in various areas of the city to ensure that traffic is kept by the set rules and regulations. The directorate also asked the traffic department to tow away illegally parked cars. The cars would be collected at the Seer administration centre, and legal action would be taken against the owners.

Eight new municipal joint service councils approved

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — Minister of Municipal and Affairs Ibrahim Ayoub today approved the setting of eight new municipal joint service councils serving towns and villages in the Karak governorate and the Irbid and Tafila districts. Three councils would be set up in each of these areas. These councils will set joint service projects catering for neighbouring groups of villages and set up service complexes to serve the individual institutions in every village. The move comes following the recommendations of two committees of the municipalities in the Karak Governorate and the Madaba District as well as the municipalities in the Zarqa and Madaba Districts, held last week. Each council will be chaired by the governor of the concerned area, with a representative from the village and an engineer from the Ministry of Municipal and Affairs.

Brig. Qa'war laid to rest

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The body of the late Brig. Khalil Qa'war was laid to rest, here with full military honours Sunday.

5 Irbid cooperative centres completed

IRBID, April 10 (JNA). — The Irbid cooperative department has completed building five cooperative centres in the town of Irbid and the Eidoun, Sirou and Kfarat villages. The aim of these centres, which cost JD 110,000, is to accommodate membership of farmers in the Irbid Governorate. Meanwhile, work is underway on the construction of an agricultural cooperative union building at Irbid industrial centre. The buildings will comprise of seven garages for maintenance and repair of machines, storehouses and depots for fertilisers and seeds. The JD 40,000 project is expected to be completed within the first half of this year.

Second season at Iraq Al Amir starts today

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The second season for excavation work at the Iraq Al Amir, west of the Wadi Seer town will start tomorrow. The dig is being prepared by the Department of Antiquities in cooperation with the French archaeological centre. Director General of the Antiquities Department Dr. Adnan Al Hadidi said the excavations which will last four months, aim at facilitating repair and reconstruction of Qasr Al 'Abd which contains various items of interest, including large statues of lions, dating back to the first century B.C.

RSS, General Electric sponsor seminar on electricity

AMMAN, April 10 (JNA). — The Mechanical Engineering Department of the Royal Scientific Society and General Electric Co. are sponsoring a seminar which began this morning on electrical distribution systems. The meeting was attended by top engineers and technicians from the Royal Scientific Society, the Jordanian Armed Forces, Jordan Electricity Authority, and the Irbid and

the Amman electricity companies. Seven engineers from General Electric also participated in the meeting.

Chambers of Commerce Union meets

JARASH, April 10 (JNA). — The Union of Chambers of Commerce held a conference here today. Jarash District Governor Salem Al Qudah addressing the meeting, called for the establishment of industries near the city of Jarash. President of the Union of Chambers of Commerce Mohammad Ali Al Budeir told the meeting that the union is trying to start new consumer industries in Jordan. The conference recommended an increase in fees paid to the government by all merchants and opening a new income tax office in Aqaba due to the boom in commerce activities in the city.

## LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

	Jordanian fils
Buying/Selling	
U.S. dollar	307.00/309.00
U.K. sterling	576.00/580.00
W. German mark	152.00/152.90
Swiss franc	164.30/165.30
French franc	67.30/67.70
Italian lire (for every 100)	36.00/36.20
Japanese yen (for every 100)	139.50/140.30
Dutch guilder	142.40/143.30
Belgian franc (for every 100)	67.50/68.10
Swedish crown	66.90/67.30

## Amman Stock Exchange Report

NAME OF COMPANY	PAR value	Volume traded	Opening price	Closing price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	5,332	6,600	6,600
Jordan Cement Factories	JD 10,000	1,564	14,950	14,900
Jordan Phosphate Mines	JD 1,000	105	2,100	2,100
Arab Pharmaceutical Co.	JD 5,000	454	15,700	15,700
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	2,200	1,100	1,100
Jordan Pipe Manufacturing Co.	JD 10,000	412	10,400	10,300
*Jordan - Gulf Bank	JD 1,000	9,660	1,100	1,100
**Dar Aldawa Development & Investment Co.	JD 1,000	2,310	1,700	1,650
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	45	0,850	0,900
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	733	1,250	1,250
National Insurance Co.	JD 10,000	50	10,000	10,000
Jordan Tanning Co.	JD 5,000	1,508	7,200	7,250
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	390	0,700	0,650
Arab Aluminium Co.	JD 1,000	3,467	0,950	0,950
Garage Owners Federation Office Co.	JD 1,000	1,642	3,700	3,700

Total volume traded, Monday, April 10 JD 29,872

\*50 per cent of share capital paid.  
\*\*75 per cent of share capital paid.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE

## JORDAN TELEVISION

<b>Channel 3 &amp; 6:</b>	8:30	Arabic programme
8:30	Quran	
8:45	Cartoons	10:15 Arabic series
8:50	Black Beauty	
9:00	Arabic programme	<b>Channel 6:</b>
9:00	News in Arabic	7:30 News in Hebrew
11:00	News in Arabic	7:45 Filler
		8:30 Comedy series (You Being Served)
<b>Channel 3:</b>	9:10	Hard times
7:30	Arabic programme	10:00 News in English
8:30	Arabic series	10:15 Love boat



# UAE oil minister urges OPEC to find ways to counter revenue losses

ABU DHABI, April 10 (R). — United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mane' Al Oteiba was quoted here today as saying his country was losing 11.5 per cent of its oil revenues as a result of the continuing fall in dollar values.

In an interview with the newspaper Al Wahda, Dr. Al Oteiba called on member-states of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to find ways of countering the fall in their revenues and call on them to programme their oil production in a way which would allow them to continue to dictate world oil prices.

Dr. Al Oteiba said differences of opinion on ways of dealing with the dollar crisis would not lead to the disintegration of OPEC and the question would have to be discussed next month at an extraordinary conference of OPEC oil ministers to be held in Geneva or in the Saudi city of Taef.

The UAE oil minister said losses resulting from dollar fluctuations were between eight and nine per cent last year and had risen to 11.5 per cent this year.

There is an urgent need for OPEC to discuss the effects of the dollar fluctuations on the incomes of the oil producing states," he said.

The UAE has prepared "comprehensive and full proposals" which he planned to present to next month's OPEC conference, he added.

Those would base oil prices on "a new basket of currencies whose aim would be to maintain the purchasing power of oil revenues without replacing the dollar as the unit in which prices are expressed," he explained.

Dr. Al Oteiba first outlined his proposals at a lecture here two months ago when he said the basket would be in three tiers -- a first tier representing 70 per cent of the basket and comprising traditional hard currencies such as the dollar, the West German Mark and the Swiss, French and British currencies, a second tier representing 20 per cent of the basket and comprising the currencies of some of the oil exporters such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE, and a third tier accounting for the remaining 10 per cent and expressed in gold.

Dr. Al Oteiba is the first OPEC minister to say that the conference might be held in Taef and not in Geneva.

for a crucial summit of seven leading industrial states in Bonn in mid-July, to be attended by President Carter.

The other countries at the Bonn talks will be Japan, Canada and the big four of the European community -- West Germany, France, Britain and Italy.

The community leaders fixed the 90-day deadline so they could present a joint stand to the Bonn meeting, which follows the seven-nation summit in London in June last year.

The Common Market nine agreed that the battle for economic recovery must be fought on five fronts: Economic growth to pull the Western World out of recession, greater stability in Common Market currencies in the face of dollar upheavals, long-term capital movements including aid for less developed countries, oil and energy conservation, and more trade to prevent the spread of protectionism.

Common Market leaders fear that the pressure on them to put up trade barriers will intensify unless Japan soon starts to reduce its \$5.2 billion trading surplus with the community.

## EEC sets 90-day deadline to work out strategy for tackling economic crisis

COPENHAGEN, April 10 (R). — Common Market leaders have set themselves a 90-day deadline to work out a strategy to drag the Western world out of recession, cut down unemployment and curb trade protectionism.

They agreed on this approach at a two-day European community summit which ended here Saturday with a clear realisation that the economic crisis facing the West was so great that they must take a concerted stand or fall apart.

The nine European community leaders set themselves the target of a 4.5 per cent annual economic growth rate for the Common Market by July next year.

This is the minimum they can do to help fight the awesome problem of unemployment, now running at six million in a community of more than 250 million people, and is particularly severe among the young.

France's President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and the leaders of West Germany, Britain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark and Ireland outlined a five-point programme in preparation

## Healey places budget secrets in the "Gladstone" box



Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Denis Healey prepares the budget at the Treasury in London, which he will deliver at the House of Commons today. His "secrets" will be placed in the traditional leather covered Budget Box before him -- a box in which successive chancellors have carried their budget speeches from their official residence at 11 Downing Street to Parliament. Looking a little worn now, the box is probably more than 100 years old. It is believed to have been made for Mr. Gladstone when he was chancellor some time around 1860 and has become known as the "Gladstone" box. (BIS photo)

## Gulf oil states take precautions against occupation

KUWAIT, April 10 (R). — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf Arab states are taking secret precautions against threats to occupy their oil fields, the UAE ambassador here was quoted yesterday as saying.

"We are a target nation and expect invasion at any moment," Ambassador Mohammad

Abdulla said, according to the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Qabas.

Referring to the precautionary measures, he said: "Current events require this, as we face a common enemy and have to consult on coordinating defence steps and to take precautions against threats to occupy the oil fields."

Details of a common policy

between the region's states, now being drawn up, would be kept secret.

"The coordination is meant for self-defence and not for attack," he said.

The ambassador did not say where threats to oil fields came from but Gulf newspapers have given prominence to reports of Saudi complaints of Israeli overflights.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON, (R). — Following are the buying and selling rates for bank trading on the London foreign exchange market last night. Tourist rates will differ from those quoted below.

One sterling ....	1.8767/77	U.S. dollars
One dollar .....	2.0055/65	West German marks
	2.1415/35	Dutch guilders
	1.8500/15	Swiss francs
	31.31/34	Belgian francs
	4.5455/85	French francs
	850.70/851.00	Italian lire
	219.45/60	Japanese yen
	4.5660/70	Swedish crowns
	5.2920/35	Norwegian crowns
	5.5390/5405	Danish crowns

## LONDON MARKET REPORT

Stock prices closed lower in light trading ahead of the budget tomorrow, dealers said. At 15:00 the F.T. index was down 3.7 at 463.4.

Government bonds finished as much as 1/4 point lower after being marked down 1/16 point following the wholesale price index though the mark down was subsequently recovered, dealers said. Industrial leaders mostly lost ground with Fisons the most affected at 333p, down 9p.

Gold shares reduced earlier losses but were largely down on the day. U.S. stocks hardened while Canadians eased, Australians held steady.

Oils inclined easier where changed while banks held steady.

Price of gold closed in London Monday at \$178.70/oz.



## Architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis dies

PORTMEIRION, Wales, April 10 (AP). — Distinguished architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis died in his sleep at his home here early Sunday, his widow said. He would have been 85 next month. Mr. Williams-Ellis headed the Stevenage Development Corporation which planned and built a town of that name in the Hertfordshire countryside, 28 miles north of London. It set an example for architects all over the world. Mr. Williams-Ellis designed homes, mansions, hotels, exhibition halls, schools, colleges, chapels and churches, village schemes, mausoleums and gardens in England, Ireland and Wales, and residences in China, South Africa and New Zealand.

## Tycoon must sell unique art collection

LONDON, April 10 (R). — Bolivian tin tycoon George Ortiz, who paid \$2 million to kidnapers of his five-year-old daughter last October, said yesterday he must sell his unique art collection. Child heiress Graziella Ortiz-Patino was abducted on her way to school near Geneva on Oct. 3. She was released unharmed 11 days later after the ransom, one of the biggest in history, was paid. Two Italians were last month charged with the crime but much of the money has yet to be recovered. Mr. Ortiz is in London to arrange the disposal of his African and Pacific primitive art. His Polynesian items are regarded as the finest in the world in private hands.

## John Wayne leaves intensive care unit

BOSTON, April 10 (AP). — Actor John Wayne, recovering from a heart valve operation, has been transferred out of the intensive care unit at Massachusetts General Hospital. Mr. Wayne, 70, was moved on Saturday to an intermediate care section, hospital spokesman Martin Bander said. Mr. Wayne, who has appeared in about 200 films, has received several thousand letters from well-wishers. Flowers and baskets of food sent by fans have filled the movie star's room, Mr. Bander said.

## Muriel Humphrey will not run in elections

ST. PAUL, Minnesota, April 10 (R). — Muriel Humphrey, appointed to the U.S. Senate last February after the death of her husband, Sen. Hubert Humphrey, announced over the weekend that she would not seek election to his Minnesota seat. "After 12 campaigns and 33 years working with Hubert in his years as mayor (of Minneapolis), vice president and senator, I now want to return home as a private person," Mrs. Humphrey told a Democratic fund raising dinner here. The 66-year-old widow said: "I will not seek to remain in office beyond the interim."

## Sir Michael Redgrave makes good recovery

LONDON, April 10 (AP). — Sir Michael Redgrave, 70, was "making a good recovery" in a local hospital Sunday after suffering exhaustion following a tour of Denmark hospital sources said yesterday. The actor was taken Friday to the eight-bed Odium Hospital near his home in Hampshire. A hospital spokesman said "he is almost back to his old self" and they expected to discharge him tomorrow. Mr. Redgrave suffers from Parkinson's disease, which prevents him from acting, but he manages one-man recitals of literary classics and toured Canada and South America last year. His actress daughter Vanessa won an academy award last week.

# ANNAN MARKETPLACE

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**TAURUS** (Apr. 20 to May 20) An ideal day to find better ways of adding to present abundance. Plan time for consultations with financial experts.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 21) You can enjoy the pleasures you really like now without much trouble or expense. Sidelstep a troublemaker.

**MOON CHILDREN** (June 22 to Aug. 21) Exercise good judgment in career activities and get excellent results at this time. Make happiness your goal.

**LEO** (July 22 to Aug. 21) Plan more time for being with friends you truly like. Decide what your real aims are and how best to attain them. Be logical.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good day to engage in public work that can be helpful to you and others. Study new trends where your career work is concerned.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Some puzzling situations can now be cleared up by new viewpoints you have. Be more understanding of others.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make certain to keep all the promises you have made to others. Be sure to handle business affairs wisely at this time.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Make long-range plans that will give you added income in the days ahead. Show others that you have outstanding ability.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Good day to keep steadily at your work and get a good deal accomplished. Be more cooperative with associates.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You can have a most delightful time at amusements with congenials during spare time today. Show more devotion to mate.

**PISCES** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't take your ire out on a loyal friend. Later you can discuss matters in a most intelligent way. Plan recreation in advance.

# Japanese get hooked on the "mansion craze" as property prices get higher and higher

By Stephen Bronte

TOKYO (F.T.) — It was a heart-rending scene. A red-eyed Japanese housewife explained to a sympathetic television studio audience how her husband had suffered a nervous breakdown which put him in hospital. "We pleaded with them," she related, "but they refused to postpone our payments". Then she burst into tears. Their inability to meet their loan payments had brought foreclosure on their mortgaged suburban Osaka "mansion".

The story underlines the fact that today thousands of Japanese middle class families are rushing headlong into mortgage contracts that will enable them to buy the home of their dreams, a Japanese "mansion". Of course they are not thinking of moving into a palatial estate. A "mansion" in the Japanese meaning refers to a condominium located in a high rise building close to a major urban centre.

Boom in demand

The demand for mansions has reached boom proportions in recent years. Over 47,000 units will be offered for sale in the 1977/78 fiscal year, a 17 per cent increase over the previous year. Mansion building is the one prosperous area in the otherwise depressed construction industry. Hasegawa Komuten, a leading construction company specialising in mansions, announced profits of \$9.1 m. for the term ending May, 1977, and it has forecast a further 45 per cent growth in profits for the current fiscal year.

Often given Western names like "comfy homes" or "regal houses", the usual mansion is a three room affair, known in Japan as a "2LDK". This includes two 9' x 12' rooms, one 12' x 12' combination kitchen and living room, bathroom, and a small balcony. Hot water and central heating are optional. This dream home can be purchased for a mere \$66,000.

The Japanese are flocking to do just that. Last year, 70 per cent of all units offered were sold in their first month on the market. One company recently offered 168 units for sale in the Yamanashi district of central Tokyo. Prices ranged from \$37,500 for a one room apartment on the street, to \$166,000 for a four room penthouse. Within three days all were sold, a full year before ground was broken to begin construction.

Inflation has been a major factor behind the mansion buying phenomenon. Rents in

the downtown sections of Japanese cities have increased up to 2,000 times in the last 30 years. An apartment in the Akasaka district of Tokyo that rented for 14 cents a month in 1947 now costs \$330.

Investments pay off

Those who bought land and built homes in the 50's and 60's have seen their investments increase exponentially in value. Of the 31 m. families in Japan, 18 m. are now homeowners. Those who haven't bought homes yet are rushing to do so before prices soar out of reach.

The main buyers have been young Japanese couples in their late twenties or early thirties, with one or two children. But with the cost of a mansion more than five times the average annual income of this age group (which is about \$12,500 a year), mansion buyers are having to rely on either public or private financing.

Home financing is available from two sources. City banks are extending 20 year loans at 7.96 per cent a year. The guidelines used stipulate an initial 30 per cent deposit, with a lending ceiling of up to four times the borrower's annual salary. Also, the Japan Housing Finance Corporation, a semi-governmental lending institution, has more reasonable terms with 35 year loans available only to families at 5.5 per cent a year.

The criteria used for rating potential borrowers would raise eyebrows in Western countries. The main considerations are the reputation of the borrower's place or employment, and whether or not he has worked continuously for that company. Thus, a lower level employee at Mitsubishi or Toyota could breeze through a credit check, while the president of a small unknown company would undergo careful scrutiny. One job change in a lifetime could kill his chances of getting a housing loan. Female or foreign borrowers are out unless they can provide an acceptable guarantor.

Effective

The criteria seem to be effective. Of 700,000 housing loans made in 1975, only 800 went into arrears, a percentage to be envied by Western bankers. But even that number of bad debts was ten times the 1973 figure.

Like the unhappy couple mentioned above, too many families have signed themselves into unbearable repayment schedules. While the usual

Of 31 m. Japanese families, 18 m. have managed to acquire their own homes. They think it is the best security they can get -- even if it breaks them.

ceiling recommended by banks is 20 per cent of the borrower's salary, some unfortunate mansion buyers are overburdened with monthly payments equal to half their monthly income. With such a narrow margin of safety, even a temporary slowdown in the economy manifested in the form of a cancelled summer bonus could bring foreclosure.

To streamline the mansion business, major companies have pooled their resources. A construction company builds them, a bank does the financing, and then a trading company markets them. Hasegawa Komuten, the Mitsui Shintaku Bank, and Nissbo-Iwai have formed one group. Another trio is comprised of Hasegawa Gumi, the Taiyo Bank, and Asahi Tatemono, while Kajima Construction, Sumitomo Bank, and Sumitomo Shoji have formed a third group.

Foreign companies have also entered the arena. Jardine Matheson and Co. Ltd. and Pacific Architects have formed a joint venture named K. K. Halifax Associates that is entering the mansion field. To date, it has completed two buildings in Tokyo, the "Mita Townhouse" and the "Halifax

Building", catering specifically to businesses.

Hazards

There are hazards to avoid in buying a mansion. The industry is prey to the corruption in the construction industry which is rife in Japan. One recent scandal involved a company that substituted wooden beams for concrete in a three-story mansion. Consultants advise purchasing a unit built by a well known construction company to minimise this danger.

And if one has an eye towards reselling his mansion, the location is of prime importance. Units in central Tokyo sell like hotcakes, but those one to two hours commuting distance out of town tend to be slow movers. There are now 10,000 unsold units

in Japan, most of which are located on the distant outskirts of big cities.

In the high inflation economy, an urban mansion can be an excellent investment. An ever expanding population in an already desperately crowded country is bound to insure continued demand for this type of housing. Assuming that one has paid his earthquake and fire insurance, it can be a relatively safe investment at that.

The mansion has become an important part of the housing and construction industry here. The trend will continue because for the Japanese middle class, mansion ownership represents one of the few forms of long term security available today.

-- Financial Times News-Features

## If it sells, then sell it

By Carol Kennedy

LONDON, (LPS) — That old adage about sending coals to Newcastle -- once a centre of the British coalmining industry -- pales beside the extraordinary achievements of some British exporters in selling, among other things, hot-water bottles to Nigeria, oil to Abu Dhabi, sun lamps to Bahrain, wool to Australia and chicken chow mein to Hong Kong.

These are just some of the coups -- surely representing unusual powers of salesmanship -- which were revealed in the dozens of letters received by Greenall Whitley, a big British brewing and distilling company, after it announced, for the second year running, a competition for an "Incredible Export Award".

In Moscow?

The distilling part of Greenall, G. and J. Greenall, based in Warrington, Lancashire, northern England, is itself engaged in promoting an "Incredible export" -- it is trying hard to sell Lancashire-made Vladivir Vodka in Eastern Europe, and its ambition is to see this being drunk in Moscow.

The competition, which is run by Vladivir Vodka in conjunction with the "Export Times", was won in 1976 by the Premier Drum Company of Leicester, which had sold tom-

toms to Nigeria. Response from companies all over Britain was so great, and interest in industry and by the press so keen, that the Greenall company was encouraged to hold a second contest in 1977 -- and the likelihood is that it will become an annual event.

The idea originated because it was felt that exporting ought, in the words of a former government minister, to be fun as well as a serious business of improving the country's balance of payments, and that a lighthearted award for unusual exports would nicely complement such established incentives as the Queen's Award to Industry, given each year for a great range of industrial and commercial achievements.

The actual prize for incredible exports is modest enough

-- an original cartoon drawn by the well-known cartoonist Bill Tidy and presented to the winning company along with a crate of Vladivir Vodka. But the publicity value, of course, is immense.

Hot favourites

Among entries hotly favoured to win this year's competition is that of London Rubber Industries which sells 15,000 hot-water bottles a year to humid West Africa. The initial deal was clinched at a trade fair in Nigeria where the temperature had reached a sizzling 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees C).

Also well in the running may be a company called Henry V. Hird of Hyde, Cheshire, which has shipped a consignment of refined oil to Abu Dhabi along with a £75,000 vehicle workshop. The company explains that, although oil-rich Abu Dhabi produces vast quantities of the raw commodity, "refined oil is very difficult to get hold of there".

Then there is the company which exports sun lamps to Bahrain, while others include a firm in Bradford -- once the centre of Britain's wool trade -- which exports wool from Scottish island sheep to Australia, and the giant Unilever multinational, whose food division sends packaged chow mein to Hong Kong as well as a variety of other Chinese and Indian dishes.

One firm supplies artificial ski slopes to Sweden, another, artificial sponges to the Seychelles. An enterprising record company has even managed to market German language courses in Germany -- perhaps for the benefit of the "gastarbeiter" or immigrant workers from Turkey. Tents to Arabs (sold by Benjamin Edgington, tent-makers by Royal Appointment), "cat igloos" to Iceland, and sawn logs and pulpwood to Norway are just a few of the other amazing feats of salesmanship revealed in Greenall's list of more than 50 entries.

But there is even more intriguing evidence of work done by enterprising exporters. For instance, a company in Ashbury, Wiltshire, has sold

60 snow ploughs to the Yemen -- hardly a country to be plagued by snowdrifts -- where the machines are used as sand ploughs to clear drifts built up by the wind.

And a Cheshire firm called Trendora (Gymnastics) Ltd has supplied about 50 yoga mats to the Iyengar Institute in Poona, India, a world-renowned centre of yoga studies. The mats, measuring two metres by one metre, are made of foam with a bonded cover and latex back, and can be easily wiped clean. They also find a ready market in the United States of America and the Netherlands.

Whiteboards and black chalk

A firm in Mitcham, Surrey, cleverly identified an unusual market when it succeeded in selling whiteboards instead of blackboards to educational establishments in black Africa -- complete, of course, with black chalk. A company exporting to the Middle East does a good business in electric fencing to keep camels off farmland, and yet another firm has sold stainless steel palm trees to Kuwait -- presumably as decor for some new hotel or office headquarters.

Christmas, the famous London firm of fine art auctioneers, is successfully selling contemporary Islamic etchings to Saudi Arabia, and one enterprising company buys Western Red Cedar from Canada, processes it into garden trellising and sells it back to Canada.

Finally there is the story of the Swiss rolls sold to Switzerland. The Swiss roll is widely known in Britain as meaning a particular type of sponge roll filled with jam. But when supplies of the delicacy, made by Park Cakes of Oldham, Lancashire, arrived in Switzerland, the Swiss customs held them up, complaining that the description on the documents was wrong because the rolls had not been made in Switzerland. The international misunderstanding was cleared up and in due course Swiss customers were able to munch their way happily through the British Swiss rolls.

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## THE BETTER HALF By Barnes





# Ford says Carter erred by bringing Russia back into Middle East

NEW YORK, April 10 (R). — Former President Gerald Ford said that allowing the Soviet Union to regain influence in the Middle East was the present administration's major error. "Carter made a serious mistake by bringing the Soviet Union back into the Middle East," he told 1,500 people at a dinner arranged by the Young Israeli organization yesterday.

The Soviet Union had never shown any signs of playing a constructive role in the region, he said.

He urged Mr. Carter to use the 1975 Israeli-Egyptian agreement worked out during the Ford administration as the basis for future peace negotiations.

He said: "We must recognize that a totally separate peace at this stage may not be a realistic option for Egypt. It can only provide a foundation and umbrella for later agreements between Israel and Jordan and Israel and Syria."

Mr. Ford indicated last week that he was interested in running for the presidency again, having been defeated in 1976 by Mr. Carter.

Nothing could be more destructive to peace negotiations than for the United States to leave the impression in Middle Eastern capitals that it could force Egypt, Israel or any other parties to the talks to make concessions, he said.

"Only the parties them-

elves can negotiate peace," he told a cheering audience.

## Quiet diplomacy

He also decried what he called "escalating public rhetoric" which limited the scope needed by all in such sensitive talks.

The United States should choose the quiet diplomacy of the Ford-Kissinger years and be willing to do more listening than talking, he said.

"Private cooperation is more helpful than public condemnation," he said.

In an apparent reference to speculation that some United States officials would prefer to see Mr. Begin replaced by Israeli Defence Minister Ezer Weizman, Mr. Ford said, "no nation should ever be in the position of telling another nation who its leaders should be."

At the same dinner meeting Hugh L. Carey, Governor of New York state, called for "an end of the arms sales to Isra-

el's enemies" and "clear American support for a renewal of face-to-face talks" for a Middle East peace agreement.

Mr. Carey said that American policy toward Israel has been drifting and should be independent of the twists and turns of Israel's internal politics.

"True friends of Israel will not be fooled or dismayed by the open expression of different opinions within Israel," Mr. Carey said. "Israel is democracy like the United States, and the creation of public policy in both nations is a process of open expression."

Israel, he added, "must not have to confine her rhetoric" to win American approval.

Also scheduled to speak at the gathering was New York Mayor Edward Koch.

Some 100 orthodox Jews and other persons picketed outside the hotel. A spokesman said the group opposed the mayor's stands in support of abortion and of rights for homosexuals.

Mr. Carey said Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin has been characterized as "inflexible and rigid, yet is Begin who offered at Israel in December to restore to Egypt most of the territory Egypt had lost."

He added: "I know Prime Minister Begin, and I know he is inflexible only for the safety of his people."

Saying that Israel has been described recently as insecure, Mr. Carey said that "actually it is American support for Israel that has become insecure."

He concluded that the United States should "assist and support, not pressure" Israel.

## Full-scale military alert called off Alleged commando raid in Israel is a hoax

TEL AVIV, April 10 (R). — A reported Palestinian commando raid which led to a full-scale military alert in Israel was almost certainly a hoax, a military spokesman said today.

Though the alert was called off early today, heavily-armed soldiers and police kept up their search along the southern coast after the report that a Palestinian commando squad landed last night.

The report was broadcast from a truck saying it had been seized by 10 guerrillas who had killed a girl and taken four hostages. Police said they were seeking to trace those who made the broadcast.

"We are now about 99 per cent certain that it was a hoax, but we are taking no chances," the spokesman said.

Only a month ago, Palestinian guerrillas hijacked a bus on the main Tel Aviv-Haifa road and 35 Israelis were killed.

Police have questioned a number of people with two-way broadcasting equipment in their vehicles. But a spokesman said later they had no definite lead on the origin of the weekend broadcast.

Israeli security forces, publicly criticised for reacting slowly to the guerrilla attack last month, went into action last night within a few minutes of the initial report of another commando raid.

Newspapers and eyewitnesses were full of praise today for the army and police who threw up roadblocks -- consisting mainly of armoured personnel carriers.

Israel's special police anti-guerrilla unit sped to the area, shot up flares and switched on flood lights that almost instantly converted the darkness into daylight.

"I think we learned some badly needed lessons from the last tragedy and we think a repetition is less likely today," an Israeli security officer said.

## Marcos' party wins less than 70% of Manilan votes

MANILA, April 10 (R). — Official results in the Philippines' first elections under martial law today showed the government taking less than 70 per cent of the capital's votes -- well down on the 90 per cent support the government claimed for itself in past referenda.

First results also indicated the government appeared to have lost some seats in the Central Visayan Island, where local leadership is said to be unpopular, and possibly a few on the Moslem-rebel troubled southern island of Mindanao.

President Ferdinand Marcos called a meeting of his cabinet today to assess election results, in which he has claimed an overwhelming victory, and to review the security situation.

Among matters to be discussed are yesterday's arrests of 600 peaceful marchers, including opposition candidates, two civil rights lawyers and several Roman Catholic nuns, protesting alleged cheating in Friday's poll.

The authorities, who have placed the lawyers and candidates in the main military detention centre, said the marchers would be charged with sedition and incitement to sedition.

The authorities said they carried posters calling for revolution and shouted slogans. They also alleged police found small home-made explosives.

Foreign correspondents who watched the march, sponsored by a moderate group calling

itself the People's Alternative, did not see the alleged posters nor hear any seditious slogans.

The marchers' shouts were for the opposition People's Power Party and they sang two folk songs.

Their arrest brought a protest by civil rights lawyer and former Sen. Jovito Salonga, President of the organisation which sponsored the march.

## Italy keeps hard line in dealing with kidnappers

ROME, April 10 (R). — After a weekend fraught with activity, the Italian government today showed no sign of changing its hard-line decision to reject any demands from the urban guerrilla kidnappers of former Prime Minister Aldo Moro.

Officials declined comment on the situation, but unconfirmed reports said a new letter from Signor Moro contained another emotional appeal for a prisoner exchange to secure his release.

The leading newspaper Corriere Della Sera today quoted one person who read the letter, which was received on Saturday, as saying it is "terrible and very dramatic".

There were no clear signs of any contacts with the Red Brigades and authorities maintained a total news blackout on their investigations.

But the actions of the government and investigators indicated that the Moro case was reaching a decisive point after the reported letter from the ruling Christian Democratic Party president arrived on Saturday.

Interior Minister Francesco Cossiga unexpectedly flew to Geneva for a Sunday meeting with interior ministers from West Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

On his return, he immediately conferred with Premier Giulio Andreotti and his top aides, including the ministers of defence and finance.

The prosecutor-general and the chief of the political police spent more than an hour without explanation talking to Signora Eleonora Moro, who wrote an emotional open letter to her husband last Friday.

Signora Moro was also visited for an hour by Cardinal Ugo Poletti, the Vicar of Rome, who this morning talked to Pope Paul apparently about the case.

But all the signs here indicated that the release of Signor Moro from the so-called "people's jail" where he is being held binged on contacts with the urban guerrillas in which the government made no overt concessions.

## World News Briefs

### Brezhnev ends Far East, Siberian tour

MOSCOW, April 10 (R). — President Leonid Brezhnev returned to Moscow yesterday after reviewing Soviet defences on the troubled border with China and delivering pep-talks to local industrial chiefs in Siberia and the Soviet Far East. Mr. Brezhnev's 13-day tour by train, his first extended trip inside the Soviet Union, took him 8,000 kms. across the continent to the Pacific port of Vladivostok, from where he flew home.

### Carter's popularity in U.S. stays same

WASHINGTON, April 10 (R). — President Carter's popularity with Americans remains steady with 50 per cent saying he is doing a good job, according to a Gallup Poll published yesterday. The figure has remained the same in polls during the last two months. The latest survey of more than 4,500 people showed that 35 per cent did not approve of the way Mr. Carter was handling his job and 15 per cent had no opinion. Mr. Carter's rating was virtually the same with people in all income brackets.

### Malloum, Qadhafi meet over Chad war

TRIPOLI, April 10 (R). — Libyan leader Muammar Al Qadhafi and President Felix Malloum of Chad held talks yesterday on efforts to end a 12-year guerrilla war in Chad. The official Libyan Jamahiriya news agency said Col. Qadhafi and three neighbouring African leaders met President Malloum last February to hammer out a peace plan. President Malloum, who earlier this year broke off diplomatic links with the Libyan Jamahiriya accusing Tripoli of aiding the Chad rebels, thanked Col. Qadhafi after the talks for his efforts to reunite Chad, the agency said.

### Kuwait to issue forgery-proof passports

KUWAIT, April 10 (R). — The Kuwait Ministry of Interior yesterday announced that all Kuwaiti passports are to be replaced by forgery-proof documents within six months. A statement said the issue of the new passport would start immediately and that all existing ones would become invalid from Oct. 15. The government had announced earlier that passports would be replaced after one of two men accused of killing Egyptian writer Youssef Sibai in Nicosia two months ago was found to be carrying a forged Kuwaiti passport.

### Israeli to resume UNESCO payments

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, April 10 (R). — Israel yesterday decided to resume payments to the annual budget of UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, an official cabinet communiqué announced. Israel suspended payments more than three years ago after the international body adopted an anti-Israel resolution which barred it from the activities of UNESCO's European regional group. The action followed allegations that Israel carried out archaeological work altering historical features of Jerusalem. Israel's decision to pay its debts to UNESCO, amounting to \$373,000, was taken at yesterday's weekly cabinet session.

## Romanian president to visit Washington

BUCHAREST, April 10 (R). — President Nicolae Ceausescu goes to Washington tomorrow, seeking renewed support for communist Romania's independence and U.S. help in meeting ambitious economic goals.

The Romanian leader making his fourth U.S. visit in eight years, will be the first Soviet Bloc government chief to be received at the White House by President Carter.

U.S. sources said Mr. Carter would give him strong assurances of American interest in the continued maintenance of Romania's political independence and military security.

Mr. Ceausescu's maverick relations with the Kremlin have improved, at least outwardly, since the previous American President Gerald Ford visited here 2-1/2 years ago, but the U.S. connection remains a key priority for Romania.

Bucharest officials said periodic reaffirmation of U.S. interest was essential to enable Romania to continue its tightrope diplomacy between the power blocs.

The six-day Ceausescu visit, including two meetings with President Carter, was arranged following a Romanian assessment that relations were in danger of stagnating after reaching a high point under President Richard Nixon.

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## Israel bans 319 books on occupied West Bank

RAMALLAH, April 10 (R). — The Israeli military government has banned from sale in the occupied West Bank 319 books by about 7 Arab authors, according to local booksellers.

A spokesman for the military government said the ban was imposed because books which contained anti-Israel propaganda, for which import licences had previously been refused, were being secretly printed in the area.

He said that the ban did not cover all books by any particular author but only those found to contain material which could inflame the West Bank population "even if only one page contains such material."

The forbidden books include Smile on his Lips and Twelve Men by Youssef Sibai, the Egyptian newspaper editor and author assassinated in Cyprus in February.

The list includes Anis Mansour's Around the World in 200 Days and books by Fatwa Toukan, author and poetess from Nabulus, and works by Nazdar Al Kabani, Mohammad Attiyeh Al Abrashi and Mohammad Al Gazzali.

## Ecevit to visit Bonn

BONN, April 10 (R). — Turkish Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit will pay an official visit to West Germany from May 10 to 13, it was officially announced here today.

## NATO commanders devise radical new East-West war strategy

By James Foley

NORFOLK, Virginia, (R). — More than a million-and-a-half American troops would be airlifted to Europe if war between East and West appeared imminent under a radical new plan devised by NATO commanders.

Under the plan the long range civil airliners of the European NATO states would dash to the United States to pick up the troops and bring them back to the continent.

The European airliners would join the huge fleets of the American civil airlines to lift the troops to Europe to confront the Russians and their Warsaw Pact allies.

At the same time some 500 European civilian ships, all of which have been named, would discharge their cargoes wherever they are and steam to the United States to pick up war supplies.

British Admiral David Loran, deputy commander of NATO's huge Atlantic command and chief architect of the plan, said the ships would carry some four million tons of tanks, guns, ammunition and other war supplies across the ocean.

The admiral is head of a multinational task group of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation which will present its plan to the alliance summit in Washington in May. He said the figure could

go to 11 million tons, depending on whether or not fighting broke out.

President Jimmy Carter and other NATO government heads called for the study, along with others, to examine ways for the United States to get its men, tanks and guns to Europe.

### Achilles heel

The Atlantic is the Achilles heel of the 16-nation Western alliance in that it divides Europe, where any East-West war is likely to be fought, from the United States, NATO's military powerhouse.

Aware of this the Soviet Union has turned the Murmansk area in northern Russia into what NATO sources here say is the world's biggest naval base.

The nearly 100 surface warships and 200 submarines based there would try to move into the Atlantic during a war to cut the supply and reinforcement lines between the U.S. and Europe, experts here say.

"Like sharks in a moat," remarked one U.S. navy officer at NATO's Atlantic Command headquarters here.

The problem preoccupies NATO leaders. Naval officers point out that Germany wrecked havoc in the Atlantic shipping lanes with a force of only 57 submarines at the start of World War II.

According to NATO sources the Soviet Union has more than three times that number based in the Murmansk area alone and some 340 -- the largest submarine force in the world -- in its four fleets.

### Rapid reinforcements

Adm. Loran said NATO had to plan to reinforce the European NATO states rapidly because the alliance could not afford to maintain all its troops, planes and military equipment on the other side of the Atlantic.

The plan calls for the reinforcement to take place during a time of crisis but before fighting actually breaks out.

There are two schools of thought in the alliance on what effect a reinforcement decision -- which would have to be taken by the alliance governments -- would have during a time of grave crisis between NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

One says the reinforcement would act as a deterrent to an outbreak of fighting by showing alliance resolve while the other, definitely a minority view, says it would increase tension and perhaps prompt a Soviet attack.

In any event the public stand of the alliance is that a decision to send American forces to Europe would achieve NATO's self-appointed first task -- to deter the Soviet

Union from any military adventure.

### Early decision

The military planners say that during a crisis NATO's political leaders would have to take an early decision for the reinforcement plan to be put into effect.

Then, if the deterrent aspect of the reinforcement failed and war broke out, the troops would be on the ground in Europe to help fight it.

"The alliance says reinforce Europe and we do that, I hope in peacetime, because then you get all those personnel and all that equipment over without attrition," said Adm. Loran.

He said the success of the reinforcement plan depended on the alliance having enough political courage to order it into effect long before fighting actually breaks out.

NATO's military authorities believe the alliance navies would have to struggle long -- and take heavy casualties -- to clear the Atlantic of Soviet submarines and surface raiders at the start of a war.

Opinions vary on how long it would take but most experts believe it would take at least a month -- and by then the Soviet army might be waiting on the beaches in western Europe when the Allied ships arrived to offload.

## Gypsies pay homage to Romany victims of Nazis

GENEVA, April 10 (R). — Some 130 gypsies from 20 countries stood in silent homage here yesterday to an estimated half a million Romany victims of Nazi Germany.

The ceremony preceded a session of a commission on war crimes at the Second International Romany Congress which opened here Saturday attended by gypsy delegates from East and West Europe, the United States, India and Pakistan.

The four-day congress has been convened with a view to ending harassment of and discrimination against the world's estimated 10 million gypsies and winning full civil rights for gypsies wherever they live.

Its agenda includes a demand for reparations from West Germany for gypsies exterminated by the Nazis and a proposal to appoint a coordinating committee to press the gypsies' case at the United Nations.

Gypsies are believed to be of Indian origin and are thought to have left their homeland during invasions more than five centuries ago.

asked for aces and settled in six hearts. West can still be found sitting in a corner of the club muttering about this hand.

TCT won the club opening and ran the queen of hearts. When this held, he continued with a low trump to the eight, and East's failure to follow did not even ruffle Tommy's composure. Tommy cashed the king-queen of diamonds, and it seemed that the bad break here as well spelled the death knell of the contract. The kibitzers began to walk away from Tommy's table, but he proved them all wrong.

After taking the king-ace of spades and ruffing a spade, Tommy cashed his remaining club honor. Then he crossed to the ace of diamonds and led dummy's remaining spade, discarding his diamond loser.

West could not ruff the fourth spade without giving up his trump trick, so he also discarded a diamond and East was saddled with the lead. He was obliged to lead a club and Tommy, down to nothing but the J-10 of trumps, ruffed. Poor West found that his K-6 of hearts was utterly worthless!

If he played the king, dummy would overruff with the ace and declarer's remaining trump would win the last trick. If West under-ruffed, declarer would stuff dummy's remaining diamond and the ace of trumps on the table would win the last trick. Either way, the slam was home.

When Trump Coup Tommy was at the helm, his opponents knew that they couldn't be sure of taking a trump trick until it was actually in the bank and the transaction was signed, sealed and delivered. Indeed, one day he bid a grand slam off the ace of trumps, and the defender who held it refused to double. When asked why, he explained: "You know Tommy -- he always redoubles!"

Tommy brushed aside East's preempt as he blasted into slam. As soon as his partner showed a good hand with his cue-bid, Tommy

asked for aces and settled in six hearts. West can still be found sitting in a corner of the club muttering about this hand.

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## JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KARCC

TAIRE

TELKET

APEAR

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "O O O O O O O O O O"

Answers tomorrow

Sunday's Jumbles: PAPER GLORY LEEWAY BRUTAL

Answer: What it was for dad when Junior started taking trumpet lessons -- A GREAT BLOW

ATSEBONENASITGALASEAPRIMOGENITORNI SO TOAPTLY DECOYNO LETTER PAIMP TURN GARLEAF BY HELDSUP TUNESTRANGEMENTANE DOOR REATAD SWAM AFT

Solution of Sunday's puzzle

DOWN

1. Cape

2. Stove

3. Spears

4. Jacket or tie

5. Bottle

6. Essay

7. Barbary ape

8. Intermediaries

9. Brightest star

10. Furnish

11. Part of bee

12. Great enthusiasm

13. Gael

14. Maguy

15. Ascertain

16. Mignonne

17. In good season

18. Dismounted

19. Acknowledges

20. Resentment

21. Creek

22. French article

23. Rocky peak

24. Vetch

Par time 25 minutes AP Newsfeatures 4/4

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